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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1942,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET

1943.

1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

December, 1943.

To the Rugby Borough Council.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. GREEN, AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1942; it is regretted that the Report should be delayed.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is again only a short statement of fact. All available information is being kept for record and can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Green, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Borough of Rugby.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1942	...	...	—
Birth Rate	...	...	17.1
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	32
Death Rate	...	...	9.6
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes	...	— 1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	31
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			31
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	40
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—Mr. D. E. Jacob resigned in August and Mr. E. R. R. Mengham joined the staff in September as Temporary Additional Sanitary Officer.

6. *Laboratory Facilities.*—The following Table shows the number of free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	7	103	110
Enteric Fever—	...	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	20	21
			131

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) *Water.*—14 samples of the Public Water Supply were examined during the year, and all gave satisfactory results.

(2) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—The re-organisation of the Sewage Disposal Works into one central works has been completed. A definite improvement is shown, the effluent being satisfactory.

Hillmorton Sewage Works continue to give good results.

The total number of cleansings of pail closets during the year was 13,058.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—The condition of these was satisfactory, and there have been no complaints regarding pollution.

3. (1) *Closet Accommodation*.—Approximately 230 pail closets and earth closets remain in the area added in 1932. Owing to war conditions very little action has been possible to reduce this figure.

(2) *Public Cleansing*.—Despite difficulties due to war conditions, the refuse collection has been carried out in an efficient manner, though collections, owing to shortage of staff, are only being made fortnightly. There have been special efforts in salvage, the results being very satisfactory.

The scavenging of streets has been carried out satisfactorily.

(3) *Swimming Baths*.—The purity of the water both in the Open and Closed baths has been maintained—regular tests taken showed no evidence of pollution.

D. HOUSING.

General Observations.—No systematic house-to-house inspection has been carried out.

The total number of dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts during the year is 114, and the number of visits made for the purpose is 973. In consequence of 136 notices served in respect of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 114 houses were rendered fit.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—During the year the following samples were taken :—

- (1) 62 ordinary milks for bacteriological examination.
- (2) 12 ordinary milks for biological examination.
- (3) 113 milks for chemical analysis.

Results of the examinations or analyses :—

- (1) 30 were satisfactory, 32 were unsatisfactory.
- (2) 12 gave negative results.
- (3) Of the 113 samples, 99 were genuine and 14 not genuine, in three cases proceedings followed and convictions were recorded.

The vendors and producers of the unsatisfactory samples submitted for bacteriological examination were notified of the results and advised in the methods of clean milk production.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced with the keeping quality of the milk during the year, primarily due to sweet curdling.

(b) *Meat Inspection*.—All slaughtering for Rugby and district has been carried out at the Cattle Market Slaughterhouses. All condemned meat and offals have been sent by the Ministry to a waste utilisation plant at Northampton.

It is necessary for an Inspector to be on duty during the whole of the time that slaughtering is taking place, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr. Masi act as Meat Inspectors for the Ministry. The centralisation of slaughtering has helped in the inspection of meat in the town, and the following is a summary of the animals slaughtered for the year and meat condemned :—

	<i>Beasts.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Carcases inspected	2,007	666	19,094	599	2,119	24,485
<i>Tuberculosis.</i>						
Whole carcasses	8	18	—	4	2	32
Part carcasses and /or organs	188	181	—	51	3	423
% of animals affected	9.77	29.88	—	9.18	0.24	1.86
<i>Other Diseases.</i>						
Whole carcasses	10	14	126	2	34	186
Part carcasses and /or organs	290	125	516	24	14	969
% of animals affected	14.95%	20.87%	3.36%	4.34%	2.27%	4.72%
Total % of animals affected	24.72%	50.75%	3.36%	13.52%	2.51%	6.58%

Weight of meat condemned in pounds.

	<i>Whole</i>	<i>Part</i>	<i>Organs</i>	
	<i>Carcases.</i>	<i>Carcases.</i>	<i>(estimated).</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Beasts ...	6,769	1,607	13,597	21,973
Cows ...	14,198	3,066	12,142	29,406
Sheep ...	4,712	273	1,387	6,372
Pigs ...	1,179	1,312	324	2,815
Calves ...	1,185	72	618	1,875
Total ...	28,043	6,330	28,068	62,441

making a total of 27 tons 17 cwts. 57 lbs.

(c) *Bakehouses*.—There are 26 bakehouses, including factory bakehouses, on the Register, and these have been visited and supervised, and are generally well maintained and kept in a clean condition.

(d) *Food and Drugs Act, 1938*.—The Corporation are responsible for the administration of this Act, and during the year 172 samples have been taken by the sampling officers of the Corporation and were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. 146 samples were reported upon as being genuine, and 26 samples were not genuine.

The proportion of samples per 1,000 population was 3.9%, and the percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 15.12%.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of 5 unsatisfactory samples.

VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1923.

			Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1934	...	—	30	433	5	64	—	2
1935	...	—	84	191	1	26	—	—
1936	...	—	127	86	—	48	—	8
1937	...	—	71	163	—	84	—	22
1938	...	—	37	55	4	33	—	16
1939	...	—	5	37	—	53	—	14
1940	...	—	37	144	—	60	—	14
1941	...	—	49	94	2	85	—	8
1942	...	—	13	66	—	61	—	17

Reference to Table III. will give the age incidence of the cases notified during 1942.

Smallpox.—No cases were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.—During the past year there were 13 cases notified, with no deaths.

Of the cases, 13 were taken to the Isolation Hospital.

The cases were distributed throughout the town, and the majority occurred in the first quarter of the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Continued during the year and at the end of 1942, 3,379 school children had been treated and 1,029 under school age, giving a total of 4,408.

School Closures.—Nil.

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.—There was nothing of special note.

Notification of infectious disease occurring amongst the children at school is duly sent by the teachers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
			M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	—	—	...	—	1	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	1	—	...	3	3	...	—	—	...	—	2
15	11	6	...	3	—	...	—	2	...	1	—
25	14	4	...	—	2	...	2	1	...	—	1
35	1	2	...	—	—	...	3	1	...	—	—
45	5	1	...	1	—	...	4	2	...	—	—
55	3	1	...	—	1	...	4	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	...	1	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
TOTALS			...	37	14	...	8	7	...	14	6	...	1	3

During the past year there have been notified 66 cases. In 51 cases the lungs were affected, and the remaining 15 the disease affected other parts of the body.

Of the 66 new cases notified during the past year, 9 have died during the year.

Treatment.—During the past year 40 cases have been admitted to a Sanatorium for treatment.

32 cases were discharged after treatment.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this report has been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I

BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1942.

			Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
				Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...	...	973	11	125	340
Cowsheds	...	...	71	—	—	—
Lodging Houses	...	...	6	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	7	—	1	1
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	221	—	9	8
Bakehouses	...	...	50	—	3	7
Slaughter Houses	...	...	645	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	51	—	11	30
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	20	—	—	—
Water-closets	...	...	15	—	—	—
House Drainage	...	...	306	12	12	34
Water Supply	...	...	7	—	—	—
Pigsties	...	...	21	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept...	...	...		
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	1	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	447	—	10	29
TOTALS	...	...	2841	23	171	449

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food (except meat)	No.
291	
Samples of Food taken for analysis	...
172	
Samples of Food found adulterated	...
26	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...
—	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	...
—	

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	4070
Rooms of Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	155
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	...	—

T. BARTLETT, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1942 AND PREVIOUS
YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1936	36,080	436	12.1	22	50	412	11.5
1937	37,260	498	13.4	20	40	420	11.3
1938	38,130	544	14.6	21	39	410	10.7
1939	—	—	14.0	—	36	—	11.6
1940	—	—	13.9	—	48	—	12.2
1941	—	—	15.6	—	44	—	11.0
1942	—	—	17.1	—	31	—	9.6

TABLE III.
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1942.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	13	.....	4	4	3	2	.....	.....	13	.....
Erysipelas	9	.....				1	5	3	.....
Scarlet Fever	66	.....	12	38	6	10	.....	.....	61	.....
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	61	2	2	6	4	16	20	11	.....	14
Malaria										
Dysentery	2	.....	2	.....					
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	.....			12	5	.....	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	6	.....	1	1	2	2	.....	.....	5	.....
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	51	.....	1	17	18	9	4	2	.....	20
Other forms of Tuberculosis	15	.....	1	6	3	3	1	1	.....	4
Totals	240	2	23	72	48	48	30	17	79	38

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1942.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	211	208
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	14	6
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	3
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	1
9 Influenza	1	1
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	1	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	5	4
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	5	4
15 Cancer of Breast	—	15
16 Cancer, other Sites	25	9
17 Diabetes	4	3
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	21	26
19 Heart Disease	49	44
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	6	8
21 Bronchitis	13	11
22 Pneumonia	8	6
23 Other Resp. Diseases	3	2
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	3	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	—	—
26 Appendicitis	1	3
27 Other Digestive Diseases	5	6
28 Nephritis	7	6
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	1
31 Premature Birth	3	8
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	2	4
33 Suicide	2	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	3	4
35 Other Violent Causes	8	6
36 All Other Causes	21	25

